

APRIL 2005

# DOC NEWSLINE



## Governor Blanco Lends Support to 2005 LPCF Gala

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco welcomed 200 guests to the Governor's Mansion on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> for the 2005 Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation gala. The event featured silent and live auctions with proceeds going toward the construction of a chapel at the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women in St. Gabriel.

Secretary Stalder and Warden Cain kept the crowd entertained with some comic relief during the live auction, while Warden Jones wore out a path to the podium to accept some impressive donations during the evening.

Southside Baptist Church (Mansfield, LA) Pastor Troy Terrell presented a check to the Foundation for \$150,000. Warden Cain asked for that specific

amount and Pastor Terrell delivered, initially thinking his commitment was a bit steep but working hard to



keep his promise. He actually raised tens of thousands more.

Dan Bevan from the Huey and Angelina Wilson Foundation presented a check for \$50,000, which was the final payment on the foundation's pledge of \$100,000. Mr. and Mrs.

Wilson have been very passionate about making the LCIW chapel a reality.

Pastor Dino Rizzo from the Healing Place Church (Baton Rouge) generously gave \$20,000 to the cause. He said the church is very excited to be helping the women at LCIW.

Reverend Chris Andrews didn't bring a super-sized replica of the donation by First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge, but the real thing for \$20,000 was just as good. Many people from FUMC are involved in the KIROS program at LCIW and have been involved in the planning for the new LCIW chapel.

The Department applauds the efforts of the

See **GALA**, page 3

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## P & P Officers Honored

During its annual conference in New Orleans, the Louisiana Probation and Parole Officers Association (LPPOA) recognized several officers for bravery and devotion to duty.

Receiving recognition were: Missy Young (Baton Rouge District), Shannon Stewart (Covington District), Mike

Breland (Covington District), Murphy Rachal (Alexandria District), Mark Hopkins (Monroe District), Mike La Croix (Monroe District).

These officers were each involved in crisis situations that require physical stamina and emotional strength. LPPOA members are thankful for the well being of each of these officers and

grateful for the example they provide. The Department sends kudos to these officers and encouragement to others who place their lives in danger on a daily basis.

- Information provided by Di-  
anne Walker, LPPOA Board  
Member

# DOC Newsline



## DCI Hosts 40 Exhibitors for Resource Fair

Job placement and education are crucial aspects of the Reentry process and Dixon Correctional Institute is a Department leader when it comes to providing components key to the success of an offender's transition back into his community. Forty exhibitors set up displays in the DCI gymnasium on Tuesday, March 15th, showcasing services, job opportunities and programs for more than 400 men approaching their release dates.

State agencies, non-profits, educational institutions and employers like Northrop Grumman and Gerry Lane were all on hand to assist DCI inmates in identifying resources available in their hometowns. DCI Jaycees, as well as Reentry and Pre-Release program participants assisted attendees with locating exhibits and passing out printed materials. DCI Warden James LeBlanc greeted each



Deputy Warden Steve Rader of DCI presents a certificate of appreciation to one of the exhibitors, Katherine Spears.

exhibitor and was very appreciative of the turnout. "It is very encouraging to see so many of our state and community organizations and businesses being willing to partner with us to assist those men preparing to return to their families and communities. Based on comments from both

exhibitors and DCI inmates who attended, the event was a wonderful exchange of information and a great success," said LeBlanc.

- Submitted by Elain Ellerbe, DCI Job Development Specialist

## "Faith in the Big House"

A film crew from Interlock Media recently wrapped up shooting "Faith in the Big House", a documentary that captures the life-changing influence of faith in the lives of those incarcerated. Elayn Hunt Correctional Center opened its doors to help the non-profit organization capture the daily routine of prison life – work lines, schools, recreation, pill call, religious groups and visitation. The crew also interviewed inmates who shared their views on the importance of faith in their lives.

## Victim Offender Dialogue: An Invitation to Learn to Facilitate

Last September, when a state prison inmate and a parent whose son he shot and killed sat across a table to talk, with them in the room were two facilitators, usually silent and clearly alert to all happening in the room and in the hallway outside. The facilitators were part of a group of nineteen, trained with the help of a technical assistance grant from the National Institute of Corrections in November 2003.

Briefly, Victim-Offender Dialogue is a carefully structured process, guided by a team of two trained facilitators, which enables victims/survivors to request a meeting with the

inmate who injured them and helps them and the offender prepare for that possibility. The process is victim-initiated and guided by the things a victim wants to say and ask. The offender makes the choice to participate or not (with neither reward nor punishment for the decision). The process moves from preparation to dialogue only when the facilitators, the victim, and the offender agree they are ready for a direct meeting. Any of that group can also halt the process at any point. Final approval for a dialogue to occur rests with the facility warden.

With help from the national Office for Victims of

Crime, the department will train a second group of dialogue facilitators May 16-20, 2005. Anyone who applies and is selected for the May training will be expected to commit to the program for a year and to attend at least four of six bi-monthly in-service training sessions during that year. For additional information contact the departments' coordinator of victim services, Jean Wall, at 225-342-1056.

- Submitted by Jean Wall, HQ

## Recycled Cell Phones Help Out Soldiers

Liberty Tax Service is still collecting old cell phones and cell phone batteries to recycle. The recycling proceeds will be used to purchase calling cards for U.S. military personnel overseas. All Liberty Tax Service locations throughout Louisiana will collect phones through April 15<sup>th</sup>. For Headquarters employees, there is a drop box located outside of the Purchasing Office on the second floor of Building 8.

For more information or to find a location near you, please call Beckie at the Government Street location at (225) 344-1119.

-Information submitted by Glenda Lindsey

# DOC Newsline



## JPD Officers Intervene in Court and at Crime Scene

New Orleans nearly had its own version of the Atlanta courthouse shooting recently. Although her name didn't make it into several news accounts of the story, JPD Specialist Lisa Cassara was in Orleans Criminal District Court, Section F, to report on a revocation hearing. She was waiting in a courtroom before the Clerk's Office opened at 8:15 a.m. As she opened the door to leave the courtroom, she heard a male voice scream, "No, No!!" She turned around to see a male defendant running at full speed toward her, jumping the courtroom benches. The judge had just informed him that his bond was being revoked and would be sent back to jail.

Just as a deputy jumped on the subject, Lisa also grabbed him, in a headlock, to attempt to stop him. A DA investigator joined in the fray as well. Everyone slammed into courtroom doors, cracking the wood and sending people flying. The defendant was still not subdued, so Lisa reached down and grabbed the defendant's shirt and pulled him downward just as Court Security came running in. The defendant was finally handcuffed shortly after that. The judge immediately sentenced him to 6

months for contempt of court. Lisa says, and many would agree, that this is a good example that all officers need to be aware that the danger of dealing with offenders does not exist only in the field and that a situation can escalate in a matter of seconds.

JPD officers also assisted police at what turned out to be a homicide scene. Officers Debbier Allen and Sonya Hutchinson were grabbing lunch on March 18<sup>th</sup> when they heard gunshots. Across the street, they saw children running and a victim on the ground in a parking lot. They immediately called 911 to explain the situation and give a location and then went to the scene to help out. While medics attended to the victim, the officers helped calm the students down and kept the scene as clear as possible until police arrived. Unfortunately, the victim did not survive but our officers did a great job of keeping the scene under control and getting information the police can use in its investigation.

-Information Submitted by Judith Curry, JPD

## DCI Earns Praise from ACA Auditors

Dixon Correctional Institute earned both high praise and scores on its recent audit by the American Correctional Association. The audit team determined DCI met all of the mandatory standards and 99.5% of the non-mandatory standards and will present its findings to the ACA Joint Commission on Accreditation in August 2005. The audit team complimented DCI on its beautiful, clean grounds and positive quality of life enjoyed by offenders.

"What makes this 99.5% rating even more special is that this group of auditors was the most experienced team that has ever audited DCI. To have earned this high rating, their praise and their respect as experienced corrections professionals, is tremendously rewarding," explained DCI Warden James LeBlanc.

-Information Submitted by DCI Asst. Warden Janet Lorena

## Gala.....

Continued from page 1

Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation and a special thanks goes to Governor Blanco for hosting the event and to Sylvia Weatherspoon from Channel 2 in her Mistress of Ceremony role. We would also like to recognize inmates and instructors in the Angola Culinary Arts program for making the dinner portion of the gala very special.

Anyone interested in making a donation to the Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation can contact Robin Dunne at the LPCF, 717 South Foster, Suite 110,



Secretary Stalder (Left) and Warden Bud Cain have some fun during the live auction.

Baton Rouge, LA 70806. You can also call (225) 931-3664, email [lpcf@chapels.org](mailto:lpcf@chapels.org), or visit the website at

[www.chapels.org](http://www.chapels.org).

-Information Provided by Robin Dunne, LPCF



# DOC Newsline



## DOC Headquarters Gets Heart Healthy

Headquarters and a number of DOC institutions held fundraisers for the American Heart Association. All of these fundraisers led up to the ultimate event – the Heart Walk held on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> on LSU's campus. Thanks to everyone who made these individual events successful.



### The Heart Healthy Leprechauns (info submitted by Christy Ball, HQ)

Fiscal Services sponsored a Smoothie fundraiser on St. Patrick's Day and took advantage of the extra guests since the monthly Wardens' meeting was held on the same day! The Leprechauns raised \$560 from the event, with special thanks going out to Youth Services and the Baton Rouge City Police for their support. Corporate sponsors including Ralph's Supermarket, Fresh Pickins, McDonald's, Sonic and Robbie McGowan made big contributions. Salon Dolce' and other private donors also helped increase the proceeds to the AHA.

### The Fab Five (and others) Gumbo (info submitted by Lee Jennings and Terry Clair)



This group raised \$450 for the American Heart Association during a Gumbo lunch at Headquarters on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Fab Five

consists of Patsy Austin, Terry Clair, Robert Krieg, Tom Riker and Billy Breland. Others fortunate to be associated with the group are Cheryl Foster, Veris Wilson, Lisa Militello and Lee Jennings. The group donated the ingredients and supplies and Terry Clair's stepson, Matt Standefer, who is Head Chef at Sherwood Forest Country Club, cooked the gumbo.

### Secretary's Office Raffles Great Prizes

Monisa Lentz and Kim Eiland spearheaded AHA fundraising efforts for the Secretary's Office. One raffle, for a very nice Easter basket, raised almost \$200. The second raffle raised \$500 and prizes included cash, dinner for two at Louisiana Lagniappe and a massage.



LSP's Design Team (L to R): Sherry Firmin, Trish Foster, Tara Bonnette, Connie McCann, David James and Jane Gaspard.



A small but dedicated group from Phelps Correctional Center made the drive to Baton Rouge to participate in the 2005 Heart Walk.

## DOC's Heart Helpers

-Through fundraising activities, **LCIW** employees raised \$8,000 for the American Heart Association. In addition, inmates at LCIW had their own Heart Walk on the morning of April 2nd to show their support for the cause. Inmates donated \$2 to participate and \$1,500 was raised from that effort alone.

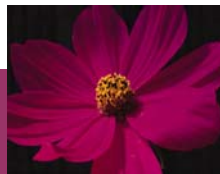
- **DCI** raised \$4,000 that was donated to the American Heart Association during Saturday's festivities.

\*\*Complete totals are still being calculated. Look for final numbers in May's DOC Newsline.

-On Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, **LSP's** Legal Section was honored at a luncheon sponsored by the American Heart Association. Connie McCann, along with help from her co-workers, designed the winning T-Shirts modeled by DOC employees at Saturday's Heart Walk. Congratulations to Connie and the Legal Section on their winning design. (See photo at left.)

- Thanks to **Elayn Hunt's** IMPACT class which helped during set-up and cleanup activities. Their hard work earned them a few Subway sandwiches, which they gobbled up in a hurry.

# DOC Newsline



## Hunt & LTC Leading the Way in Industry Credentialing for Inmate Students

For the past several years, at all levels of education, training, employment and government, the big push is toward industry-based credentialing as a means of validating the training experiences of students in vocational training programs. Elayn Hunt Correctional Center has viewed this as a means for assisting discharging inmates with securing employment, and currently has seven of its training programs aligned with a credentialing entity. Following is a synopsis of the credentialing programs currently operating at Hunt.

### SERV-SAFE CERTIFICATION

Endorsed by the National (and Louisiana) Restaurant Association to promote safe food-handling, certification, virtually guarantees one a job in the food service industry. So far, sixteen of eighteen students in the first class passed the Serv-Safe exam.

### ELECTRONICS TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION (ETA)

The ETA "Fiber Optic Installer Technician" Certificate is available to students enrolled in the LTC

Computer Specialist Curriculum. Students successfully completing the fiber optics and CAT 6 cabling section must pass a stringent written and performance test to become certified.

### EPA CERTIFICATION

The LTC Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program is one of few fully HVAC certified programs among the 40 LTC campuses throughout the state. In the past year, 20 students have earned industry certifications in several areas including, EPA, AC&R Electrical, and Gas Heating. In many areas of these exams, LTC-Hunt students have scored higher than the national average.

### WORK KEYS

Louisiana Work Ready Certificates are industry recognized certificates based on work-related assessments published and nationally normed by ACT. This is a portable credential that signifies an individual has specific fundamental skills necessary for success in the workplace. Over 50 inmates have earned Gold, Silver, and Bronze Certificates representing various levels of skills achievement.

### OPEESA

The LTC Outdoor Power Equipment Technology program is gearing back up after a one-year closure. Prior to its closing, the class was successfully producing OPEESA certified technicians. Our present instructor is a certified OPEESA trainer and examiner, and we expect to resume certification testing by the fall of this year.

### NCCER CERTIFICATION

Certification from the National Center for Construction Education and Research can be earned for successful completion of the NCCER Core and LTC Welding Curriculums. To date, 81 students are NCCER-registered welding completers. The Core Curriculum is a fundamental course designed as the opening component for over 34 construction-related crafts. NCCER certification is nationally portable. The credentials are entered in the NCCER National Registry which that can be accessed nationwide by employers and other professionals.

-Submitted by Madeline McCaleb and Dr. Sanders, EHCC

## New Minden P&P Office Opens

A grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> in Minden for the new Probation and Parole Office, located at 403 Industrial Drive. The new office provides more secure parking for employees and extra building security.

The Minden office serves Webster, Claiborne, Bienville and Jackson parishes, supervising roughly 1,200 offenders. It employs 16 peo-



ple, including 11 officers who conduct investigations for the courts, parole board and other agencies as well as perform DNA and drug screenings for offenders.

District Supervisor Ken Pickett expressed appreciation to Senator Robert Adley and Representative Jean Doerge, who assisted in the acquisition of the new facility.

-Information and picture courtesy of Minden Press Herald and reporter Jana Ryan

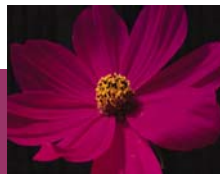
## Winn Inmates Earn GED's

The Department is proud to recognize 11 inmates at Winn who recently passed their GED exams. Special congratulations go out to a few inmates including Marion Hullaby, who scored the highest possible score (800) in Social Studies and Language Arts/Reading, putting him in the top 99th percentile in the nation. Rodney Terrell and Timothy Williams were close behind with scores of 710 in Reading, the top 98th percentile. Phillip Adams scored in the 97th percentile on the Language Arts Reading Test.

-Information submitted by Becky Dougan



# DOC Newsline



## AVC Hosts Marksville Chamber of Commerce

Warden Cooper and staff at Avoyelles Correctional Center hosted the February meeting of the Marksville Chamber of Commerce. Chamber Secretary, Eleanor Gremillion, wrote a very complimentary letter thanking Warden Cooper for the group's very nice experience.

"As we walked, it seemed we were in another city, the beauty of the grounds, the manicured flower gardens and the cleanliness of your facility.

"Most people did not know such a center was located in Cottonport, now they do, as those who attended 'spread the word', of a most pleasant day."

Chamber members were also treated to a delicious lunch and some other goodies assembled by Warden Cooper's staff.

-Information submitted by Myrna Jackson, AVC

## Where there's smoke, there's fire (training)

It is probably the most common household item that we never use. Captain Bud Norton and Cliff Underwood of JLDCC



thought they would make safety training a little more interactive, so instead of the

usual verbal spill about fire extinguishers, they made employees actually use one. Thanks to the Pineville Fire Department for giving the demonstration and training materials. Employees gave some good feedback on the usefulness of the training exercise.

-Information submitted by Cliff Underwood, JLDCC

## Insurance Options Change; Educate Yourself at Open Enrollment

Virtually all employees will see an increase in insurance premiums in the new fiscal year (starting July 1<sup>st</sup>) and, in some cases, those increases will be substantial. It is crucial that you educate yourself on these changes in order to make the best decision for you and your family. **Open enrollment for Headquarters is Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.** Representatives from the Office of Group Benefits, FARA, United Health Care and Ochsner will explain coverages available for the 2005-2006 plan year.

Your HR office should have contacted you about dates for annual open enrollment meetings. If you need to access meeting dates in your area, please visit [www.groupbenefits.org](http://www.groupbenefits.org), call 800-215-1093 or contact your HR office for information.

## DCC Hosts DNA Seminar for Law Enforcement

Thirty law enforcement officers from around the state attended a DNA seminar held at Dabadie Correctional Center in Pineville on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Two members of the State Police Crime Lab's DNA CODIS Unit trained the officers on how to properly collect blood using a CODIS DNA kit. Participants included personnel from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, Vernon Parish Correctional Center, Rapides Parish DC, Sabine Parish Sheriff's Office, Red River Correctional Center and Leesville Probation and Parole.

More than 300

officers have been trained on DNA collection through seminars hosted by Dabadie. Lt. John Packett has also received the necessary certification to instruct other facilities on blood collection procedures using the CODIS DNA kit. Congratulations.

-Information Submitted by Lt. John Packett, DCC

## WCI Inmates Help Out Head Start Students

Mary Boulware of Franklinton Head Start knows them as Crew #19 – courteous, creative and industrious WCI inmates who are making a noticeable difference in the school's appearance. The inmates completed the following projects in January and February: a covered picnic area and entrance, blue and yellow cubbies in classrooms, locked stands for sign-in books, sidewalk and shed for

baby buggies and kitchen shelves for storage.

Boulware says parents are very appreciative of WCI's work on these projects. She says the 134 babies, toddlers and pre-k children can spend the better part of their day in safe and happy surroundings.

-Information submitted by WCI Warden Miller



Covered Picnic area built by WCI Inmates at Franklinton Head Start.

# DOC Newsline



## Big Baskets Brighten Children's Day at Creative Head Start



Several inmate organizations from the Louisiana State Penitentiary generously donated Easter baskets for approximately 80 children from Creative Head Start in Baton Rouge. The Headquarters staff got to deliver the goods on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. After a story by Toni McKnight, the kids made a short walk to the gym to collect their goods. Little did they know the Easter baskets they were receiving were almost as big as they are!

Mrs. Antoine and Tammy Jetson made sure that the baskets were appropriate for both boys and girls. The kids were delighted to receive them but disappointed that they couldn't actually open the baskets until they got home! Thanks to the staff that helped distribute the baskets and a very enthusiastic thanks to the inmate organizations that collectively purchased them.

- Church of God in Christ
- Human Relations Club
- Angola Special Civic Project
- United Pentecostal Apostolic Fellowship
- Pentecostal Fellowship
- Latin American Club
- Angola Men of Integrity
- St. John Inst. Baptist Brotherhood
- New Hope Group of AA
- Substance Abuse Clinic
- Angola Jaycees
- Students of Islam
- Drama Club
- Wonders of Joy
- Horticulture Club
- Camp C Concept Club
- Camp J Unity Club
- Forgotten Voices Toastmaster
- VETS Incarcerated
- Full Gospel Businessmen Fellowship
- Dale Carnegie Club
- AABA (Angola Amateur Boxing Association)
- United Methodist Men Fellowship
- Sober Group of AA
- LIFERS
- NOBTS (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary)
- Reception Center — ARC Club
- Toy Shop
- Association of Literary Arts
- CPR Team
- Men of Hope
- Camp D SOC Club
- Camp F SAC Club

## MOD Food Bank Hopping Along at Easter

A generous and anonymous MOD family brightened another family's holiday with two bountiful Easter Baskets this season. The donor family selected a young couple with three children, one newborn and two sons,

ages 7 and 9. Included in the baskets were age appropriate Bibles.

The MOD Food Bank has been making families like this one smile since 2001.

-Information submitted by Pearl Wise

## Hunt Helps in the Hunt for Easter Eggs



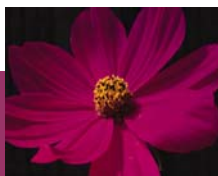
East Iberville Head Start students got a real treat when EHCC staff members showed up at their school for some Easter fun on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Activity Committee purchased items to make each child a small Easter basket. Volunteers read stories to the children and hid eggs for them to hunt. The sugar rush ensued after the hunt was over. Thanks to all the staff who donated money and/or volunteered their time with the children.

-Info submitted by Angela Whittaker, EHCC



Warden Michael of DWCC helps children hunt for Easter Eggs.

# DOC Newsline



## Employee Awards

### Headquarters

#### **2004 Support Employee of the Year**

Glynn Stassi

#### **2004 Supervisor of the Year**

George Lamy

### PCC

#### **Supervisor of the 1st Quarter**

Joe Ruebush

#### **Support Employee of the 1st Quarter**

Delanie Burgess

#### **Correctional Officer of the 1st Quarter**

Sgt. Dennis Webber

### EHCC

#### **Supervisor of the Month**

Jonathan Wiggins (February)

Lt. Colonel Leon Lanoux (March)

#### **Officer of the Month**

Sgt. William Everhart (February)

Sgt. Freddy Curtis (March)

#### **Support Employee of the Month**

Denise Murphy (February)

Diane Allen (March)

### FWCC

#### **Supervisor of the 1st Quarter**

Lt. Corodney Specks

#### **Support Employee of 1st Quarter**

Lori Volk

#### **Officer of the Month (February)**

Sgt. Roston Walker

#### **Officer of the Month (March)**

Sgt. Steven Taylor'

### LSP

#### **Officer of the Month (February)**

Cadet Billy Woods

### DCI

#### **Officer of the Month (February)**

Corrs Sgt-Master Robert Roule

### DWCC

#### **2004 Warden's Awards of Excellence Recipients**

Captain Ron Rawson

Major Brad Rogers

#### **2004 Correctional Officer of the Year**

Sgt. Cale Sanders

#### **2004 Support Employee of the Year**

Tommy Garrett

#### **2004 Supervisor of the Year**

Lt. Col. Lonnie Nail

#### **Officer of the Month (February)**

Sgt. Bruce Solomon

## Service Pin Recipients

### Headquarters

#### **40 Years**

George Deer

#### **30 Years**

Judy Martin

Genie Powers

#### **25 Years**

Mike Berry

Sylvia Hanson

Madonna Robinson

#### **20 Years**

Mary Ann Pharr

Tom Riker

#### **15 Years**

Dawson Andrews

#### **10 Years**

Mona Wagner

### DWCC

#### **20 Years**

Nolan Slack

Kelly Carpenter

Jerry Gifford

#### **15 Years**

Wilma Bailey

Aleshia Coats

Scottie Coats

Joseph Foster

Lonnie Hay

James Holyfield

Jackie Johnson

Michael Loud

Donald Love

Ron Rawson

Thomas Tobin

David Wines

#### **10 Years**

Pam Austin

Richard Bridges

Mona Freeman

Jeffrey Jackson

Karen Pigage

Naomi Starr

## Honorable Mentions

- Winn Correctional Center held its quarterly Blood Drive on March 11th in conjunction with Life Share Blood Center of Alexandria. 38 staff members gave blood and another 6 attempted but were not eligible to donate.
- The "Lifers" documentary was chosen to screen at the Newport Beach Film Festival in California between April 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Brigadier General Sherian Grace Cadoria, United States Army (Retired), was the keynote speaker for AVC's Black History program on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The General, a native of Marksville, captured the full attention of both inmates and staff as she "Stood on the Shoulders" of her predecessors in black history with messages meant to in-

spired and reflect upon.

- Congratulations to New Orleans East Probation and Parole Officer Guy Flannagan who was named the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run "Top Runner" award winner.
- JLDCC has held three employee blood drives since October 2004. The third drive, held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, allowed night-shift employees to donate.
- The MOD quarterly safety meeting focused on free vision screenings for employees. A local eye clinic gave a presentation on vision safety and included free screenings on site. Many employees had not had their vision checked since grade school and were very glad to have the opportunity to participate.